

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9665

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: CALL ON SPACIL

REF: STATE 043426

1. CHARGE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR MET WITH SPACIL AT 10 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 24. AS DEPARTMENT HAD ANTICIPATED, SUBJECT WAS FROLIK TESTIMONY. AFTER POINTING OUT THAT BOTH GOC AND USG HAVE OFTEN NOTED IMPORTANCE WHICH THEY ATTACH TO TREATMENT OF THEIR COUNTRIES IN INFORMATION MEDIA, AND CONCERN THAT SUCH TREATMENT NOT BE OFFENSIVE, SPACIL STATED THAT GOC HAS NOW WITNESSED A VERY SERIOUS ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK CAMPAIGN IN US.

2. SPACIL THEN MADE FORMAL ORAL PROTEST (HE GAVE US COPY AS NON-PAPER) AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: ON 9 FEBRUARY 1976, THE US PUBLIC OPINION WAS FAMILIARIZED WITH THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMIGRE JOSEF FROLIK BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY ON THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY OF THE US SENATE ON 25 NOVEMBER 1975, WHICH, IN FACT, IS AN ATTACK AGAINST A NUMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATS. THE STATEMENT, AS PRESENTED BY US COMMUNICATION MEDIA, CONTAINS FALSE FACTS, FABRICATIONS AND DISTORTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN DESCRIBING THE TRAGIC EVENT THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE MORE THAN 13 YEARS AGO INVOLVING MR. ZIZKA, EMPLOYEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PERMANENT MISSION IN NEW YORK, AND HIS WIFE, OF WHICH THE US AUTHORITIES HAVE VERY GOOD INFORMATION SINCE THEY THEMSELVES CONDUCTED THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATION AT THE TIME, THE STATEMENT CONTAINS FALSE FACTS AND UNFOUNDED BARTI-
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CATIONS, DISREGARDING THE MOST ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF DECENCY.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT AT THE TIME WHEN THE TRAGEDY OCCURRED THE US PRESS REPORTS WERE MORE OR LESS OBJECTIVE AND THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, A NUMBER OF NEW FABRICATIONS IS MADE PUBLIC TODAY, ONE CANNOT BUT DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH STEPS ARE TANTAMOUNT TO FLAGRANT ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK ATTACKS OF UNPRECEDENTED INTENSITY WHICH ARE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE CONTENTS AND THE SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE IN HELSINKI. THIS IS EVIDENTLY A CAMPAIGN WHICH IS PREMEDITATED AND LAUNCHED BY THOSE QUARTERS THAT FEEL THAT PEACEFUL CO-OPERATION AMONG NATIONS, IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS AMONG STATES AND CONSOLIDATION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE ARE THORNS IN THEIR SIDE. FOR REASONS ABOVE, WE LODGE A PROTEST AGAINST FALSE REPORTS IN US COMMUNICATION MEDIA THAT STRONGLY AFFECT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE UNITED STATES. WE REGARD AS A VERY IMPORTANT NEGATIVE ASPECT THAT, IN CONTRAVENTION TO THE PROFESSED EFFORTS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT PREVENT PROJECTS THAT CONSTITUTE AN OVERT VIOLATION OF THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE AND THAT, IN PARTICULAR, IT DID NOT SUE THE OBJECTIVE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT ON THE HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY AND THUS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US INFORMATION MEDIA TO PUBLISH FALSE INFORMATION. END TEXT.

3. SPACIL, HAVING COMPLETED FORMAL ORAL PROTEST, ADDED THAT GOC WAS VERY DISTRESSED BY MISUSE OF TRAGIC DEATHS OF ZIZKA AND WIFE. AFTER REVIEWING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AS REPORTED AT THAT TIME, SPACIL DIRECTED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT US MEDICAL AND POLICE AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION IN INTEREST OF ENSURING COMPLETE AND OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION.

4. IN RESPONSE, CHARGE NOTED THAT NEW YORK TIMES STORY WAS FIRST INFORMATION WE HAD HAD OF FROLIK TESTIMONY, WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN GIVEN VOLUNTARILY TO SUBCOMMITTEE. SUBCOMMITTEE HAD APPARENTLY DECIDED, ON ITS OWN, TO RELEASE TESTIMONY; ADMINISTRATION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. AS SPACIL MUST BE AWARE, UNDER OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS NO WAY IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT COULD PREVENT THE TESTIMONY, ITS RELEASE, OR ITS SUBSEQUENT TREATMENT IN THE NEWS MEDIA. CHARGE PROMISED TO REPORT PROTEST CONFIDENTIAL

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IMMEIDIATELY.

5. AS STOMOSPHERE WAS DECIDEDLY CHILLY (SPACIL DID NOT EVEN OFFER COFFEE), WE DECIDED CSCE POINTS CONTAINED IN STATE 036033 WOULD BE BETTER SAVED FOR A MORE PROPITIOUS OCCASION.

6. DEPARTMENT'S TIMELY GUIDANCE ON FROLIK GREATLY APPRECIATED. PERRY

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